

# Project Proposal

**Proposal Title:** Anthro Mtn. CSI Project

**Proposal Number:** 1533

**DWR Region:** Northeastern Region

**Lead Agency:** USFS

**County:** Duchesne

**Project Manager:** Bob Christensen

**PM Phone:** 4357816733

**Regional Priority:** Within Focus Area

**Project Type:** Terrestrial Habitat

**Proposed Start Date:** 7/1/2009

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**Project Location:** On Anthro Mountain in Duchesne County, Utah

**Project Description:** This project will improve 400 acres of sagebrush habitat using the lop and scatter method and will provide valuable research opportunities on habitat manipulation methods.

**Description of Problem/Need:** The project area is in the site of a chaining that was done in the 1960s on Anthro Mountain and is experiencing significant encroachment of pinyon and juniper trees. As a result, the sagebrush habitat in the project area is not in a state that adequately supports wildlife needs. In addition, the sagebrush is in a state less than the desired condition because of conifer encroachment and poor sagebrush structure. The sage grouse population in this area is small and poor habitat condition has been identified as a significant contributor to the current situation. The habitat work needs to be completed soon to help improve the habitat and provide better conditions for the sage grouse populations.

This project will be done in conjunction with the Deadman Bench CSI Project (#1534) and will utilize study plots to monitor vegetative and animal response to various habitat manipulation methods.

**Objectives:** Utilize different methods of habitat manipulation. Test the effectiveness of these methods to reach desired conditions. Improve sagebrush habitat for greater sage grouse. Monitor vegetative response to the treatments. Monitor animal response to the treatments.

**Relevance to Strategic Plans:** This project will benefit sage grouse, which are a Tier II species as described in the WAP. Also benefiting is the shrubsteppe habitat, a key habitat for species of concern as described in the WAP. The project is also compatible to with the Ashley National Forest Plan, which lists sage grouse as a Forest Service sensitive species and an Ashley National Forest Management Indicator Species. The project is also consistent with recommendations from the UBARM sage grouse local working group.

**Potential Risks:** None anticipated.

**Proposed Methods:** A contract lop and scatter crew will be hired to remove encroaching pinyon and juniper trees from 400 acres of shrubsteppe habitat. 100 acres of this treatment will be involved in a research study to test the effectiveness of this method of habitat manipulation. The study will use 4 paired (treatment/control) plots of 50 acres each (25 treated/25 control). In addition, four 10-acre paired plots will be temporarily fenced to allow study of livestock grazing with supplemental feeding as a method of shrubsteppe habitat manipulation. Monitoring will be completed by Utah State University-Uinta Basin.

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**Shapefile Name:** 1533.shp

**Seed Source:**

**UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:**

**Proposed NEPA Action:**

**Proposed Arch Action:**

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring**      ☒ **Wildlife Monitoring**

**Monitoring Information:** Monitoring will be completed by Utah State University-Uinta Basin. Dr. Brent Bibbes is lead on the monitoring portion of the project. Monitoring will be completed with funding provided by a Cooperative Sagebrush Initiative grant. Both vegetative and animal response will be monitored both pre- and post- project. Pre-project monitoring will be started this summer and will be completed prior to vegetation manipulation.

**Grazing Management:** The grazing permittee is in favor of the project and will use his livestock on the grazing portion of the research project. Since no seed is being used, the area will not need to be rested following treatment except as outlined for the study plots, which will be fenced temporarily.

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## SPECIES BENEFITING

Greater Sage-grouse

Elk

Shrubsteppe Birds

Domestic Livestock

# Project Proposal

## LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
USFS	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>

## PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
Unfunded Balance	\$29,350.00		\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$29,350.00</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

## PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
Contractual Services	Lop and scatter contract @ \$30/acre	\$12,000.00	\$0.00
Materials and Supplies	temporary fencing for research plots @ \$1.25/ft	\$4,175.00	\$0.00
Contractual Services	installation of temporary fencing @ \$1.25/ft.	\$4,175.00	\$0.00
Other	supplemental feed for grazing study	\$9,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$29,350.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

## Project Map:

